

Message Text

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50/11

ACTION AGR-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3233

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR SECRETARY BUTZ; ASSISTANT SECRETARY YEUTTER; DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BELL; FAS FOR HUME, FRASER, MEEKER, BESHOAR, BROWN; ERS FOR WEST

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR US UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE: REPORT ON OPENING SESSION OF THIRD MEETING OF JOINT WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND INFORMATION, MOSCOW, OCTOBER 8, 1974

1. SUMMARY: THIRD MEETING OF ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP (EWG) BEGAN ON HARMONIOUS NOTE OCTOBER 8. AGREEMENT QUICKLY REACHED ON AGENDA AND PROCEDURES FOR MEETING. IN OPENING STATEMENT FOR US SIDE, SCHERTZ EXPLAINED ABSENCE OF BELL; EMPHASIZED US DESIRE FIND EQUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS SHARE LIMITED GRAIN SUPPLY; EXPRESSED CONCERN OF US SIDE ON PROGRESS ON EWG PROJECTS; EMPHASIZED PRIORITY WE PLACE ON FORWARD ESTIMATES AND ADVANCE AGREEMENT ON TIMING AND ITINERARIES FOR TEAM TRAVEL; REQUESTED RESPONSES FROM SOVIET SIDE TO US PROPOSALS UNDER FORECASTING AND AGRIBUSINESS PROJECTS; AND PROPOSED LIBRARY EXCHANGE AS FOURTH PROJECT. RUDENKO NONCOMMITTAL IN BRIEF RESPONSE. NOTEWORTHY THAT SOVIET SIDE DID NOT RAISE CURRENT

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PROBLEMS ARISING FROM ATTEMPTED SOVIET PURCHASES OF US GRAIN OR

EVEN RESPOND WHEN MENTIONED BY SCHERTZ. END SUMMARY

2. THIRD MEETING OF EWG OPENED AS SCHEDULED ON HARMONIOUS NOTE. APPROVAL OF AGENDA WENT SMOOTHLY WITH AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH US DESIRE TO BREAK UP INTO SEPARATE GROUPS ON EACH PROJECT (EXCHANGE OF ECONOMIC INFORMATION, FORECASTING, AND AGRIBUSINESS COMPLEXES), FOLLOWING FORMAL OPENING, TO BEGIN ACTUAL WORK OF MEETING.

3. CHAIRMAN OF SOVIET SIDE (RUDENKO) MADE FOLLOWING GENERAL COMMENTS IN OPENING REMARKS:

(A) SOVIET DELEGATION INCLUDES ONE PERSON (P.A. PETROV, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE) WHO WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS FOREIGN TRADE OF USSR.

(B) REQUESTED QUESTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH PRE-MEETING STUDY OF SOVIET PLANNING SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURE IN ADVANCE OF OCTOBER 10 MEETING WITH GOSPLAN OF USSR. US SIDE AGREED TO RESPOND AT OCTOBER 9 SESSION.

(C) MEETING WITH SOYUZSELKHOZTEKHNIKA TO DISCUSS INPUT SIDE OF SOVIET PLANNING PROCESS WILL BE ARRANGED.

4. CHAIRMAN OF US SIDE (SCHERTZ) MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN OPENING STATEMENT:

(A) EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR WARM HOSPITALITY AND USEFUL DISCUSSIONS DURING PRE-MEETING TRAVEL TO UKRAINIAN SSR.

(B) EXPRESSED REGRET THAT BELL UNABLE ATTEND OPENING SESSION AS PLANNED AND EXPLAINED IMPORTANCE OF HIS PARTICIPATION IN WHITE HOUSE MEETINGS AND CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON RECENT SOVIET ATTEMPT TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL US GRAIN. MENTIONED THAT POSSIBILITY STILL EXISTS BELL ARRIVE IN TIME FOR LAST TWO DAYS BUT EXPLAINED THIS DEPENDS ON LENGTH OF HEARINGS AND OTHER FACTORS.

(C) EMPHASIZED OUR DESIRE FIND EQUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS TO SHARE LIMITED US GRAIN SUPPLY IN 1974/75 WITH FOREIGN BUYERS AND DOMESTIC NEEDS.

(D) EXPRESSED US CONCERN OVER PROGRESS TO DATE UNDER EWG PROJECTS. EMPHASIZED PRIORITY US SIDE PLACES ON FORWARD ESTIMATES COVERING PRODUCTION AND TRADE AND POINTED OUT THAT BETTER COOPERATION HERE WOULD HELP PREVENT PRESENT SORT OF EMERGENCY SITUATION. REQUESTED SUGGESTIONS FROM SOVIET SIDE FOR IMPROVING COOPERATION ON FORWARD UNCLASSIFIED

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ESTIMATES.

(E) POINTED OUT PROBLEMS ARISING IN PAST FROM LACK OF ADVANCE AGREEMENT ON TIMING AND ITINERARIES FOR TEAM VISITS AND PROPOSED THAT PROJECT GROUPS ATTEMPT REACH AGREEMENT ON THESE POINTS FOR ALL TEAMS IN 1974 AND 1975.

(F) REQUESTED RESPONSE FROM SOVIET SIDE TO OUR PROPOSAL FOR FORECASTING SEMINAR DURING SPRING 1975 IN US; PROPOSED US TEAM ON METHODOLOGY OF AGROMETEOROLOGICAL FORECASTING TO USSR IN 1975;

AND REVIEWED EXCHANGE OF DATA AND OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION.
(G) SUGGESTED LIBRARY EXCHANGE AS FOURTH PROJECT WITH EWG.
(H) COMMENTED ON SLOW PROGRESS UNDER AGRIBUSINESS PROJECTS
AND AGAIN REQUESTED SOVIET RESPONSE TO US PROPOSALS INCLUDING
MOSOCW EXHIBITION OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

5. IN NOTABLY BRIEF RESPONSE TO SCHERTZ STATEMENT, RUDENKO
MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:
(-) EXPRESSED REGRET THAT BELL UNABLE BE PRESENT BUT INDICATED
UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEM.
(B) ACCEPTED DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING PROBLEMS RE TEAM TRAVEL
BY ADVANCE AGREEMENT BUT POINTED OUT THAT SUCH AGREEMENT MUST BE
WITHIN CONTEXT OF DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND POSSIBILITIES
IN TWO COUNTRIES (DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION TIMING AND
ITINERARIES).
(C) RE PROPOSED MOSCOW EXHIBITION, REITERATED SOVIET INTEREST ONLY
IF SUBJECT IS TECHNOLOGY OF PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTION AND TRADE,
STATED THAT USSR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS PREPARED TO GIVE CON-
SIDERATION TO SUCH AN EXHIBITION IN JULY 1975, AND SUGGESTED
THAT US SIDE MAKE CONCRETE PROPOSAL TO USSR CHAMBER.
(D) RECOMMENDED THAT ALL OTHER MATTERS IN SCHERTZ STATEMENT BE
TAKEN UP INPROJECT MEETINGS.
(E) NOTEWORTH THAT SOVIET SIDE NOT ONLY DID NOT RAISE CURRENT
FUROR OVER ATTEMPTED PURCHASE OF US GRAIN BUT DID NOT COMMENT
OR RESPOND IN ANY WAY WHEN MATTER DISCUSSED BY SCHERTZ.

6. THEREAFTER EWG BROKE UP INTO PROJECT GROUPS SCHEDULED TO
FINISH THEIR WORK BY CLOSE OF MORNING SESSION OCTOBER 9.

7. US DELEGATION WOULD APPRECIATE BIENG ADVISED OF ANY NEW
DEVELOPMENTS RE GRAIN EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY CONTACTS WITH SOVIETS
IN WASHINGTON.

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8. HAVE AGAIN REQUESTED RESPONSE FROM SOVIET SIDE ON US PROPOSALS
FOR TRAVEL IN ADVANCE OF OCTOBER 29 MEETIVNG OF JOINT COMMITTEE IN
WASHINGTON AND HOPE REPSONSE BY COB OCTOBER 9. DELAY IN
SOVIET REPONSE RESULTS FROM RUNOV BEING AWAY FROM MOSOW ON
VACATION.
STOESSEL

NOTE BY OC/T: CIEP, OMB, STR AND CEA TAKE AS ORIGINAL TELEGRAM.

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